

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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2 1. (currently amended) A head for string trimmer  
3 machines including: a housing member having a central axis for  
4 attachment to a string trimmer machine; and a serpentine guide path  
5 in the housing member for receiving a length of trimmer line, the  
6 guide path located in a plane including the central axis and  
7 terminating in exit openings on opposite sides of the housing  
8 member.  
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11 2. (Original) A head according to Claim 1 wherein the exit  
12 openings are located in a second plane perpendicular to the plane  
13 including the central axis, and wherein the guide path has a  
14 portion thereof located above or below the second plane.  
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16 3. (Original) A head according to Claim 2 wherein the exit  
17 openings are located on diametrically opposite sides of the housing  
18 member.  
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21 4. (Original) A head according to Claim 3 wherein at least  
22 the portion of the exit openings in contact with a trimmer line  
23 when pulled outwardly from the exit openings is metal.  
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1 5. (Original) A head according to Claim 4 wherein the housing  
2 member includes an upper housing portion and a lower housing  
3 portion with the guide path formed by cooperating parts of the  
4 upper and lower housing portions.  
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6 6. (Original) A head according to Claim 5 wherein the upper  
7 and lower housing portions are releasably interconnected with one  
8 another.  
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10 7. (Original) A head according to Claim 6 wherein the lower  
11 housing portion has an upper side and a lower side, with the upper  
12 side thereof releasably interconnected with the upper housing  
13 portion and the lower side thereof exposing part of the guide path  
14 to permit insertion and removal of a segment of string trimmer line  
15 thereat.  
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18 8. (Currently amended) A head according to Claim 7 wherein  
19 the releasable interconnection of the upper and lower housing  
20 portions of the housing member is effected by spring tabs extending  
21 upwardly from the lower housing ~~portions~~ portion with corresponding  
22 tab-engaging shoulders on the upper housing portion for releasable  
23 engagement by the spring tabs.  
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1 9. (Original) A head according to Claim 8 including a second  
2 serpentine guide path in the housing member located in a second  
3 plane including the central axis, the second guide path  
4 terminating in a second set of exit openings on opposite sides of  
5 the housing member.  
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7 10. (Original) A head according to Claim 9 wherein the guide  
8 paths are perpendicular to one another.  
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10 11. (Original) A head according to Claim 1 including a second  
11 serpentine guide path in the housing member located in a second  
12 plane including the central axis, the second guide path terminating  
13 in a second set of exit openings on opposite sides of the housing  
14 member.  
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16 12. (Original) A head according to Claim 11 wherein the guide  
17 paths are perpendicular to one another.  
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19 13. (Original) A head according to Claim 1 wherein the housing  
20 member includes an upper housing portion and a lower housing  
21 portion with the guide path formed by cooperating parts of the  
22 upper and lower housing portions.  
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1 14. (Original) A head according to Claim 13 wherein the upper  
2 and lower housing portions are releasably interconnected with one  
3 another.  
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5 15. (Original) A head according to Claim 14 wherein the lower  
6 housing portion has an upper side and a lower side, with the upper  
7 side thereof releasably interconnected with the upper housing  
8 portion and the lower side thereof exposing part of the guide path  
9 to permit insertion and removal of a segment of string trimmer line  
10 thereat.  
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12 16. (Currently amended) A head according to Claim 15 wherein  
13 the releasable interconnection of the upper and lower housing  
14 portions of the housing member is effected by spring tabs extending  
15 upwardly from the lower housing ~~portions~~ portion with corresponding  
16 tab-engaging shoulders on the upper housing portion for releasable  
17 engagement by the spring tabs.  
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20 17. (Original) A head according to Claim 1 wherein at least  
21 the portion of the exit openings in contact with a trimmer line  
22 when pulled outwardly from the exit openings is metal.  
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1 18. (Original) A head according to Claim 17 wherein the exit  
2 openings are located on diametrically opposite sides of the housing  
3 member.

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5 19. (Currently amended) A head for string trimmer machines  
6 including:

7 an upper housing portion having a central axis for  
8 attachment to the drive shaft of a string trimmer machine;

9 a lower housing portion for releasable interconnection  
10 with the upper housing ~~member~~ portion , and having a central axis  
11 aligned with the central axis of the upper housing portion ~~member~~;  
12 and  
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14 cooperating channels on the upper housing portion and the  
15 lower housing portion forming a non-linear serpentine guide path  
16 for a length of trimmer line, the guide path located in a plane  
17 including the central axes of the upper and lower housing portions  
18 and terminating in exit openings on opposite sides thereof.  
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21 20. (Currently amended) A head according to Claim 19 wherein  
22 the exit openings are located in a second plane perpendicular to  
23 the plane including the central ~~axis~~ axes, and wherein the guide  
24 path has a portion thereof located above or below the second plane.  
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1 21. (Original) A head according to Claim 20 wherein at least  
2 the portion of the exit openings in contact with a trimmer line  
3 when pulled outwardly from the exit openings is metal.

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5 22. (Original) A head according to Claim 19 wherein at least  
6 the portion of the exit openings in contact with a trimmer line  
7 when pulled outwardly from the exit openings is metal.

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10 23. (Original) A head according to Claim 22 wherein the guide  
11 path has, at least in part, a cross-sectional configuration  
12 conforming to the cross-sectional configuration of a string trimmer  
13 line to be guided therein.

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15 24. (Currently amended) A head according to Claim 23 wherein  
16 the releasable interconnection of the upper and lower housing  
17 portions ~~of the housing~~ is effected by spring tabs extending  
18 upwardly from the lower housing ~~portions~~ portion with corresponding  
19 tab-engaging shoulders on the upper housing portion for releasable  
20 engagement by the spring tabs.

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23 25. (Cancelled)  
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1 26. (Original) A head according to Claim 19 wherein the guide  
2 path has, at least in part, a cross-sectional configuration  
3 conforming to the cross-sectional configuration of a string trimmer  
4 line to be guided therein.  
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6 27. (Original) A head according to Claim 26 wherein at least  
7 the portion of the exit openings in contact with a trimmer line  
8 when pulled outwardly from the exit openings is metal.  
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10 28. (Original) A head for string trimmer machines including:  
11 a housing member having a central axis and adapted for attachment  
12 to the drive shaft of a string trimmer machine; and means in the  
13 housing member for guiding a length of string trimmer line in a  
14 serpentine path in a plane including the central axis, the path  
15 terminating in exit openings on opposite sides of the housing  
16 member.  
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18 29. (Original) A head according to Claim 28 further including  
19 means for providing access to the non-linear guide path at a point  
20 intermediate the length of the guide path.  
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1 30. (Original) The head according to Claim 29 wherein the  
2 cross-sectional configuration of at least a portion of the guide  
3 path is a rectangular cross section.

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5 31. (Original) The head according to Claim 28 wherein the  
6 cross-sectional configuration of at least a portion of the guide  
7 path is a rectangular cross section.  
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